

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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) Group Art Unit: 1645

) Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED

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Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO 1449 form.

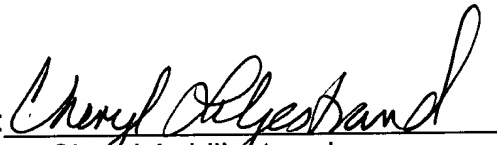
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does not constitute an admission that any of the listed documents, or any part thereof, are material or constitute prior art under title 35 of the United States code. Applicants reserve the right to present evidence that any of such documents are not prior art.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: October 31, 2001.

BY: 
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